

## SECTION 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**8.1 Conclusions.** This study has included an examination of all practical alternatives for meeting the study objective of restoring habitat within the 10-mile reach of Columbia Slough that have been affected by the Corps' flood control levees. The selected alternative, consisting of the construction of wetland benches along 7.5 miles of the main slough, replacement of five culverts within Buffalo Slough and Whitaker Slough, restoration of a wetland at Galitzski Flats (formerly Duck Lake), and riparian restoration at Galitzski Springs, is the most effective alternative which also meets the sponsor's needs. This alternative provides significant ecosystem benefits, at a reasonable construction and O&M cost. The plan does not impair the original Federal project of flood control, and is consistent with national policy, statutes, and administrative directives. The plan has been reviewed in light of overall public interest, which includes the views of the local sponsor and interested agencies. The District has concluded that the City of Portland is capable of meeting their financial obligations and that the total public interest would be served by implementation of the recommended plan.

### 8.2 Recommendations.

I recommend that the proposed work be authorized and funding allotment of \$20,000 for the initial Plans and Specifications phase and \$57,000 be made available for the initial phase of construction. The proposed work will consist of the construction of wetland benches along 7.5 miles of the main slough, replacement of five culverts within Buffalo Slough and Whitaker Slough, restoration of a wetland at Galitzski Flats (formerly Duck Lake), and riparian restoration at Galitzski Springs, as generally described in this report, with such modifications by the Chief of Engineers as may be advisable to meet provisions of Section 1135 of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act, as amended. Initial construction shall consist of construction of wetland benches along 3,000 feet of the main Columbia Slough. Authorization is subject to cost sharing and financing arrangements with the local sponsor, the City of Portland, and is based on the cost sharing and financing arrangements of the Section 1135 program. Prior to construction of each phase, and during Plans and Specifications phase, the local sponsor will: provide all lands, easements, and rights of way necessary for the project; hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction or operation and maintenance of the project; and operate and maintain the project after construction.

---

Date

---

Randall J. Butler  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer